



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

3 OCTOBER 2017

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Stanislaus County – Man Dies From West Nile Virus

(U) A 74-year-old man has died from the West Nile virus, Stanislaus County health officials announced yesterday morning. The news comes less than a week after a professor died following a prolonged battle with West Nile. West Nile virus season extends into October in Stanislaus County, so health officials reminded residents to take precautions to prevent mosquito bites. This year, Stanislaus County Public Health has reported five cases of neuro-invasive West Nile virus and seven cases of West Nile fever.

SOURCE: 2 October 2017, [Modesto Bee](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – HPE Allowed Russia Scrutinize Cyber-Defense System Used by Pentagon

(U) Washington – Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) recently allowed a Russian defense agency to review the inner workings of cyber defense software used by the Pentagon to guard its computer networks, according to Russian regulatory records. The system, called ArcSight, alerts analysts when it detects that computer systems may have come under attack. An HPE spokeswoman said source code reviews are conducted by the Russian testing company at an HPE center outside of Russia, where the software maker closely supervises the process. HPE has allowed such reviews in Russia for years, she said.

SOURCE: 2 October 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) District of Columbia – Trial Opens for Suspected Mastermind of Benghazi Attacks

(U) Washington – Jurors assembled yesterday for the opening day of one of the most significant terrorism prosecutions in recent years. Abu Khattala, a Libyan national, is in US District Court on 18 counts including murder of an internationally protected person, providing material support to terrorists, and destroying US property while causing death. Khattala is accused of masterminding the 11 September 2012 attack that killed four Americans—including the US Ambassador to Libya.

SOURCE: 2 October 2017, [NBC News](#)

(U) Georgia – 2.5 Million More Americans May be Affected by Equifax Hack

(U) Atlanta – Credit report company Equifax said yesterday that an additional 2.5 million Americans may have been affected by the massive security breach of its systems, bringing the total to 145.5 million people who had their personal information accessed or stolen. Equifax said the company it hired to investigate the breach, Mandiant, has concluded its investigation and will release the results “promptly.” The company also said it would update its own notification for people who want to check if they were among those affected by the 8 October hack.

SOURCE: 3 October 2017, [Associated Press](#)

(U) South Carolina – Woman Receives Wrong Shipment of 20,000 Narcotic Pills

(U) Austin – A woman who ordered a yoga mat through the mail found almost 20,000 illegal narcotic pills were delivered instead. The woman alerted police, who inspected the package and found two bags of about 10,000 pills each. An investigator said the approximate street value for all the seized

oxycodone-type narcotics is around \$400,000. The investigator also said the drugs were mailed from California, and cited mail/parcel service as becoming more prevalent in his area of responsibility, with instances happening as often as once a week in York County, South Carolina.

SOURCE: 2 October 2017, [South Carolina Herald](#)

(U) Texas – Untraceable 3D-Printed 'Ghost Gun' can be Downloaded and Made in an Hour

(U) Austin – A 3D-printing machine, called the Ghost Gunner, can be used to create an untraceable metal firearm known as a 'Ghost Gun,' enabling anyone with access to a handgun without any serial numbers. The company that created the tabletop machine—Defense Distributed—has released new software which can precisely shape a piece of aluminum to form the chassis of a semi-automatic pistol. The DIY gun kit—including firing pin, barrel, and slide—can be easily purchased anonymously online and assembled at home.

SOURCE: 2 October 2017, [International Business Times](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) North Korea – Russian Firm Provides New Internet Connection to North Korea

(U) Pyongyang – North Korea has opened an internet connection with Russia, a move which cyber security experts said could give Pyongyang greater capability to conduct cyberattacks. Dyn Research, which monitors international internet traffic flows, said it had seen Russian telecommunications company Trans Telecom routing North Korean traffic since 1 October. Trans Telecom now appears to be handling roughly 60 percent of North Korean internet traffic, while China's Unicom transmits the remaining 40 percent or so.

SOURCE: 2 October 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) France – Brother of Toulouse Terrorist Goes on Trial

(U) Paris – Abdelkader Merah, the 35-year-old older brother of French extremist Mohammed Merah, went on trial yesterday, accused of helping his younger sibling prepare a 2012 terror rampage in Toulouse, France. Younger brother Mohammed Merah killed three Jewish children, a teacher, and three Muslim soldiers, and then was later killed by police in a standoff. Abdelkader Merah stands accused of "complicity to murders" committed by his jihadist younger brother.

SOURCE: 2 October 2017, [Deutsche Welle](#)

(U) France – Anti-Terrorism Police Hold Five over Wired Explosives Found in Paris Neighborhood

(U) Paris – French investigators questioned five people yesterday after police over the weekend found what appeared to be a ready-to-detonate bomb at an apartment building in a Paris neighborhood. One of those arrested was on an intelligence services list of "radicalized" persons, according to the French Interior Minister Gerard Collomb. The explosive device included two gas canisters inside the building and two outside, some of them doused with gasoline and wired to connect to a mobile phone. It was unclear why the device was planted at that location, as there was no obvious target living there.

SOURCE: 3 October 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) Syria – ISIS Claims Deadly Double Bomb Attack

(U) Damascus – ISIS today claimed responsibility for a pair of suicide bombings in the Syrian capital of Damascus that killed 17 civilians and policemen yesterday. In the bombings, two men attacked a police station in the al-Midan neighborhood before one of them blew himself up, according to Syria's Interior Minister, Lt. Gen. Mohammad al-Shaar. He said the other bomber made it inside the compound, where police killed him, causing his bomb to explode.

SOURCE: 3 October 2017, [CBS News](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas – Attorney Linked to Drug Cartels Receives Additional Sentencing

(U) El Paso – A Texas lawyer serving 16 years in a \$600 million drug money case linked to Mexican cartels was sentenced on 29 September to an additional 10 years for fraud. The defendant was convicted of wire fraud, money laundering, and engaging in a drug conspiracy related to a Mexican cartel. Half of the defendant's new sentence will be served concurrent to the 16 years, and then he must serve five more years.

SOURCE: 2 October 2017, [Associated Press](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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